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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Agriculture**  
Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6001

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May 11, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

The House Committee on Agriculture is conducting oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent actions related to its risk assessments of the chemicals glyphosate and atrazine. It has come to our attention that EPA recently posted and then removed reports on the carcinogenicity of glyphosate and the ecological risks of atrazine.

According to news reports, EPA simultaneously removed thirteen additional documents from the glyphosate review docket, including summaries of meetings with industry and a report on possible labeling amendments.<sup>1</sup> EPA officials have been quoted saying the glyphosate report and the accompanying documents were removed because EPA's review will not be final until the end of 2016, and the posting of preliminary documents was "inadvertent."<sup>2</sup> However, the report is clearly labeled "Final Report" and was signed by thirteen members of EPA's Cancer Assessment Review Committee.<sup>3</sup>

We are concerned that EPA has continually delayed its review of glyphosate. In a hearing before this Committee on May 13, 2015, one of our members specifically asked Assistant Administrator Jim Jones when EPA's glyphosate review would be complete and whether EPA

<sup>1</sup> P.J. Huffstutter, "EPA takes offline report that says glyphosate not likely carcinogenic," *Reuters*, May 2, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Potential of Glyphosate*, Final Report, Cancer Assessment Review Committee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, October 1, 2015, available at: <http://src.bna.com/eAi>.

would continue to stand behind its previous assessment that glyphosate does not pose a serious cancer risk. Administrator Jones assured this Committee that EPA's review would be final in July 2015, and the agency would continue to stand behind its previous conclusions. Despite these assurances, no report was issued until the one posted on April 29, 2016 and removed on May 2, 2016.<sup>4</sup>

The same day EPA posted its glyphosate report, it also published a report on atrazine, which was also removed at a later date.<sup>5</sup> While this report was marked as a "Preliminary Risk Assessment" rather than a final report,<sup>6</sup> we are troubled that EPA mistakenly posted and later removed documents related to assessments of two different chemicals within one week. These mistakes indicate systemic problems with EPA's management of its chemical review and publication processes.

In order to assist the Committee with its oversight of EPA's glyphosate and atrazine risk assessments, we request that EPA respond to the following questions and requests for information:

1. Please provide a narrative explaining EPA's decision to post and subsequently remove these documents from public view.
2. Who at EPA is charged with overseeing the risk assessment process for chemicals, including but not limited to glyphosate and atrazine?
3. Please provide a step-by-step description of EPA's approval process for the publication of chemical risk assessments, registration reviews, and associated documents.
4. What steps remain to be completed in order to finalize EPA's review of glyphosate?
5. When will the EPA issue its final report on glyphosate?

The Committee on Agriculture is the principal authorizing committee for all matters related to agriculture in the House of Representatives and "shall have general oversight responsibilities" as set forth in House Rule X.

The Committee requests that you respond in writing on or before May 25, 2016. Your response should be addressed to the Majority Staff in Room 1301 of the Longworth House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 1010 of the Longworth House Office Building.

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<sup>4</sup> Huffstutter, *supra*.

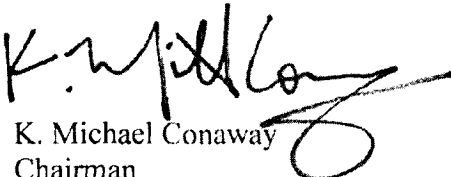
<sup>5</sup> "Agri-Pulse Daybreak," *Agri-Pulse*, May 5, 2016, available at: [http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/daybreak\\_05052016.mp3](http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/daybreak_05052016.mp3).

<sup>6</sup> *Refined Ecological Risk Assessment for Atrazine*, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, April 12, 2016, available at [http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/pesticides\\_reduction/pdfs/AtrazinePreliminaryERA.pdf](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/pesticides_reduction/pdfs/AtrazinePreliminaryERA.pdf).

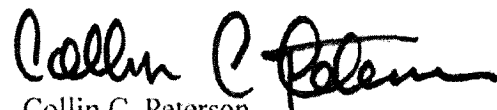
The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
May 11, 2016  
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If you have any questions about this request, please contact Emily Wong of the majority staff at 202-225-2171 or Keith Jones of the minority staff at 202-225-0317. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

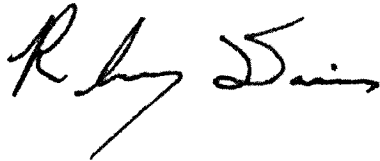
Sincerely,



K. Michael Conaway  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture



Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture



Rodney Davis  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Biotechnology,  
Horticulture, and Research

